

Regular Session, 2010

HOUSE BILL NO. 185

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUTTER

HIGHWAYS: Restores the requirement that the Joint Highway Priority Construction Committee conduct public hearings in each highway district

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 48:231(A) and (B)(1), relative to the state highway system; to  
3 provide relative to public hearings in each highway district; to restore the  
4 requirement that the Joint Highway Priority Construction Committee conduct public  
5 hearings in each highway district; to provide relative to the membership of the  
6 committee; and to provide for related matters.

7 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

8 Section 1. R.S. 48:231(A) and (B)(1) are hereby amended and reenacted to read as  
9 follows:

10 §231. Final construction program for current fiscal year; public hearings; Joint  
11 Highway Priority Construction Committee; reports; review by legislature;  
12 restrictions on legislature

13 A. Prior to the convening of each regular session of the legislature, the  
14 department shall provide the priority list to the Joint Highway Priority Construction  
15 Committee, which shall hold public hearings in each highway district for the purpose  
16 of reviewing priorities for the coming fiscal year. A report based on the testimony  
17 received at said hearings shall be sent to the Department of Transportation and  
18 Development, Joint Highway Priority Construction Committee. The department then  
19 shall create the final construction program for the coming fiscal year for submission  
20 to the legislature. When this final construction program is communicated to the

1 legislature for funding for the coming fiscal year, any project which the legislature  
2 determines is not in the proper order of priority in accordance with the factors stated  
3 in R.S. 48:229 may be deleted by the legislature. However, the legislature shall not  
4 add any projects to this final construction program, nor shall the legislature make  
5 substitutions for projects which have been removed.

6 B.(1) The Joint Highway Priority Construction Committee shall be  
7 comprised of the entire membership of the House and Senate transportation,  
8 highways and public works committees, ~~and shall include legislators representing the~~  
9 ~~parishes within the respective highway district for the purposes of attending the~~  
10 ~~public hearings in each district as required in Subsection A of this Section.~~

11 Beginning in 2004, the chairman of the House transportation, highways and public  
12 works committee shall serve as chairman of the Joint Highway Priority Construction  
13 Committee. Thereafter, chairmanship of the Joint Highway Priority Construction  
14 Committee shall rotate between the chairman of the House and Senate transportation,  
15 highways and public works committees on a two-year basis.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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Hutter

HB No. 185

**Abstract:** Restores the requirement that the Joint Highway Priority Construction Committee conduct public hearings in each highway district and removes membership of the committee to not include legislators in districts where public hearings are conducted.

Present law provides that prior to the convening of each regular session, DOTD shall hold public hearings in each highway district for the purpose of reviewing priorities for the coming fiscal year. Requires a report based on the testimony received at the hearings to be sent to the Joint Highway Priority Construction Committee.

Present law also provides that the committee is composed of the entire membership of the House and Senate transportation committees and shall include legislators representing the parishes within the respective highway district for the purposes of attending the public hearings in each district.

Proposed law provides instead that DOTD shall provide the priority list to the Joint Highway Priority Construction Committee, which shall hold public hearings. Requires the report to be sent to DOTD. Proposed law removes provisions providing that the committee shall

include legislators representing the parishes within the respective highway district for the purposes of attending the public hearings in each district.

(Amends R.S. 48:231(A) and B(1))